

Israel

FRIS 111 (SEE 103)

PERES SAYS ARGUMENTS, CRISIS CHARACTERIZE U.S.-ISRAELI RELATIONS

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(TEXT) DEFENSE MINISTER SHIM'ON PERES HAS SAID THAT WE ARE NOW IN THE MIDST OF ARGUMENTS AND CRISIS IN OUR RELATIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES AND THAT THERE IS NO POINT IN CONCEALING THIS FACT. HOWEVER, THE DEFENSE MINISTER BELIEVES THAT THIS IS A PASSING CRISIS AND THAT WE CAN WITHSTAND THE ARGUMENT WITH WASHINGTON. MR PERES SAID THAT IF THE ARMS SUPPLY FROM THE UNITED STATES DRIES UP WE SHOULD PREPARE OURSELVES TO TACKLE THIS SITUATION MAINLY BY INCREASING DOMESTIC PRODUCTION, WORKING MORE, SAVING THE EQUIPMENT AND PRESERVING IT. THE DEFENSE MINISTER WAS INTERVIEWED ON THE ARMY RADIO.

MR PERES REAFFIRMED THAT IN HIS OPINION THE GOVERNMENT DECISION REGARDING THE QUESTION OF TALKS WITH KISSINGER WAS RIGHT MAINLY BECAUSE OF THE STATE OF AFFAIRS IN THE WORLD WHICH IS REFLECTED IN THE COLLAPSE OF GUARANTEES, THE ERUPTION OF WARS, AND THE THERMENDOUS PRESSURES ON SMALL NATIONS. THE DEFENSE MINISTER BELIEVES THAT ISRAEL CAME OUT OF THE NEGOTIATIONS WITH KISSINGER NOT WITH A BROKEN SPIRIT, BUT WITH A FEELING OF INDEPENDENCE AND FREEDOM.

REPLYING TO ANOTHER QUESTION THE DEFENSE MINISTER SAID THAT IN A CERTAIN SENSE SYRIA IS TODAY THE MOST DANGEROUS ENEMY BECAUSE IT IS THE COUNTRY WHICH HAS ENJOYED THE LARGEST REARMAMENT OF ITS

AIR FORCE. ALSO ITS POLICIES ARE THE MOST EXTREME. THE DEFENSE MINISTER BELIEVES THAT DAMASCUS FEELS THAT IT IS NOT EASY TO

BATTLE THE IDF, BUT HE SAID HE WOULD NOT BE SURPRISED BY A SYRIAN MOVE.

THE DEFENSE MINISTER POINTED OUT THAT RECENTLY AN EXTREMIST TENDENCY HAS APPEARED IN THE POLICY OF KING HUSAYN OF JORDAN. WE MUST CONSIDER THIS SERIOUSLY, PERES SAID.

THE DEFENSE MINISTER ALSO SAID THAT THE GOVERNMENT INTENDS TO INCREASE THE SELF-GOVERNMENT IN THE TERRITORIES.

12 APR 1742Z RGS/CH